

Loveland Dry Gulch Snowcat Tours Project

Legal notice was published in the newspaper of record, *The Coloradoan*, on July 11, 2018 initiating the 30-day comment period.

Commenter	Comment
Casey, Rick	I-70 ski traffic is already overcrowded. Snowcat tours would add to the congestion and overuse of the area.
Wojniak, Joe	"I'm curious about the increased traffic being proposed for Dry Gulch."
Wojniak, Joe	There may not be enough skier demand to start another snowcat service, as Powder Addition is already operating along Jones Pass Road.
Wojniak, Joe	Is Loveland Ski Area proposing to expand their snowcat service that currently operates by Lift 9?
Wojniak, Joe	Parking is very small, especially in the winter because it is not plowed up to the winter gate.
Wojniak, Joe	"Can multi-use be incorporated into the proposal to support non-motorized recreational skiing?"
Porter-Scheinman, Stephanie	Letting them operate would eliminate Dry Gulch as one of the best backcountry ski areas that is easily accessible in the Front Range. I am sure it is more damaging to wildlife to have huge machines tearing up the terrain, as well as even more people in there. There are so few options left, and Jones Pass is already eliminated by the snowmobiles and then the snowcat people there (Powder Addiction) track the snow that the snowmobilers do not track up.
Scheinman, Robert	Allowing a snow cat operation in Dry Gulch will further damage the environment, increase traffic on I70, and continue to crowd out snow enthusiasts who cannot afford expensive lift tickets or prefer a quieter environment in which to climb and ski.
Foster, David	Shutting down the Dry Gulch area would greatly increase the user pressure on Berthoud Pass, already overused.
Foster, David	Snowcat skiing has regrettably badly compromised non-motorized winter use in the area.
Foster, David	Consider enhancing the existing winter usage somehow, perhaps by accommodating more vehicular parking at the trailhead.
Brown, Charles	"Please leave Dry Gulch' off limits' to commercial skiing.
Fletcher, Steven	"It will adversely affect backcountry activities such as skiing & snowboarding. Over the years I have enjoyed the solitude and beauty of Dry Gulch, but this would end if snowcatting is allowed."
Fletcher, Steven	"We don't have very many areas left for those of us that want to go into the backcountry on our own power."

Owens, Roger	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Welch, Jeff	<p>"The Dry Gulch area is one of the most frequently used backcountry skiing areas near Denver. Although I am not aware of any hard data, it is certainly within the top five most used areas for backcountry skiing near Denver (Dry Gulch, Berthoud Pass, Butler Gulch/Jones Pass, Jones Pass, and Rocky Mtn National Park). Because of existing regular human-powered use by the public, Dry Gulch is not compatible with a guided, motorized skiing operation. The fastest growing segment of winter snowsports according to SIA is human-powered backcountry skiing and snowboarding; guided motorized skiing is NOT growing and diverting public land resources to this purpose is not an appropriate use of the land."</p>
Welch, Jeff	<p>"Loveland avalanche control in Dry Gulch will be dangerous to backcountry users. Even if Loveland closes the SUP area to backcountry skiers entirely, Dry Gulch still can be and will be accessed by backcountry skiers traveling to the east side of the drainage. This drainage contains significant tree cover and Loveland avalanche control professionals will not be able to completely ensure that runout paths are completely clear of backcountry users before performing avalanche control operations. This is especially true since the proposal is to do avalanche control from the ground, using hand charges, meaning patrollers will have limited sightlines and visibility. This poses a severe safety risk to backcountry skiers in the area."</p>
Welch, Jeff	<p>"Loveland Ski Area, under their current management/leadership, has not shown that they are capable of adequately managing the avalanche potential of their existing terrain, much less new terrain in Dry Gulch. As noted, I have been skiing Loveland regularly for a decade, and also have advanced avalanche training. In the past few years I have noticed a disturbing trend in Loveland's avalanche mitigation operations. There has been a notable decrease in active bombing operations, and an increase in very large, unsurvivable avalanches on Loveland's Ridge terrain."</p>

Welch, Jeff	<p>These avalanches used to be uncommon, but recently there has been at least one every season - inbounds, triggered by patrol, triggered after the public had skied the slope, and involving very large crowds/the entire season's snowpack. It is my sincere belief that they are occurring with more regularity because Loveland is not performing sufficient early season mitigation work. I personally do not ski a significant amount of Loveland's inbounds terrain currently during the winter because I do not believe they are performing adequate mitigation work. I do not have these concerns about any other ski area in Colorado."</p>
Weidman, Nancy	<p>"There are few locations within an hour or two drive of Denver that are readily accessible to snowshoers, cross country skiers, and other non-motorized winter users. Allowing Loveland Resort to do snowcat tours in Dry Gulch will remove one of the few remaining accessible areas that is not already heavily tracked. With the growing population of back-country users, it would be wrong to open this for commercial use. Tracking up the area by cats and their clients, the noise and diesel fumes of the snow cats, and the presence of many more users will ruin it for foot-powered backcountry users (assuming they are even still allowed to access the area)."</p>
Slingsby, Beatrice	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Moudy, Kevin	<p>"This would be a great addition to Loveland Ski resort at an already stellar and professionally ran organization! Looking forward to the approval of this proposal. Loveland has the knowledge and equipment to make this operation work smoothly."</p>
Williams, David	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>

Williams, David	“Human powered snow travel activities are important to me and many Coloradans and would be severely impacted by the proposed activities. Habitat for wild animals would also be affected.”
Biggs, Wade	“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”
Biggs, Wade	“Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would substantially interfere with the quiet and remote winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationists.”
Biggs, Wade	“The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest should complete a full Winter Travel Planning process before any new Over-Snow Vehicle permits are considered or approved.”
Biggs, Wade	“The proposed frequency of snowcat trips and total runs anticipated at 160-224 per day will diminish snow quality for backcountry users by "tracking out" slopes quickly and consuming the fresh powder within a single day rather than over the course of a week or more.”
Biggs, Wade	“Overall, the level of snow compaction and disturbance in the area would significantly change the quiet, scenic and remote qualities of this winter landscape and directly conflict with existing uses in the area.”
Urrutia, Cyndy and Roland	“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”

Andrews, Rick	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Andrews, Rick	<p>"I am opposed to the proposed snow cat tours. I ski the backcountry to escape the noise of the city. These machines are loud, pollute the air and completely eliminate the experiences that I seek when skiing in the backcountry."</p>
Walker, Robert	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Lacher, John	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Lacher, John	<p>"I understand that this would be beneficial to the tourist/ski industry in Colorado, but it represents another decrease of opportunity for self propelled, healthy and enjoyable back country use of the area."</p>

Bryson, Bridget	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Raich, John	<p>"I am a long-term resident of Colorado (>50 years). I have skied in the backcountry for all those years, including the area adjacent to the Loveland Basin Ski Area that is proposed for snowcat skiing. This area is one of the few areas close to Denver that is available for relatively uncrowded backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Snowcat would introduce hundreds, if not thousands, of additional skiers to an area now accessible only through human powered effort. Snowcat skiing would transform this backcountry area to just another tracked out ski area. I urge not to take one of the few backcountry ski recreation areas within reasonable distance from Denver away from backcountry skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers."</p>
Raich, John	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Huffeldt, Philip	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Huffeldt, Philip	<p>"Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would substantially interfere with the quiet and remote winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationists."</p>

Huffeldt, Philip	"The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest should complete a full Winter Travel Planning process before any new Over-Snow Vehicle permits are considered or approved."
Huffeldt, Philip	"The proposed frequency of snowcat trips and total runs anticipated at 160-224 per day will diminish snow quality for backcountry users by "tracking out" slopes quickly and consuming the fresh powder within a single day rather than over the course of a week or more."
Huffeldt, Philip	"Overall, the level of snow compaction and disturbance in the area would significantly change the quiet, scenic and remote qualities of this winter landscape and directly conflict with existing uses in the area."
Huffeldt, Philip	"Any proposed avalanche mitigation should be assessed with regard to a variety of factors including: how often explosives may be used, what time of day explosives may be used, where explosives may be used, how unexploded ordinances would be recovered, what alternative methods could be used for avalanche mitigation, how avalanche control work would impact other backcountry users and how avalanche control work would be conveyed to the public. It is important to recognize that avalanche mitigation will also impact users in areas outside of the proposed permit boundary."
Huffeldt, Philip	"The Forest Service should consider how the expansion would impact lynx, wintering elk, and other wildlife."
Huffeldt, Philip	"The assessment should examine how climate-change driven changes in the snow season will affect all forms of winter recreation in the area."
Duplan, Nancy	"Oh why do we need to increase impact. Aren't there enough ski areas in the area. Don't take the peace away from those who go of their volition. just keep out if you can't Selkirk on your own"
Duplan, Nancy	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."

Mike, Jim	<p>“As a backcountry enthusiast, I really value areas that are still left as wilderness. Our national forests are a precious place where busy Americans can still connect with the best part of life which is the beauty of our natural surroundings of our country. I understand that the Loveland ski area wants to provide more recreation opportunities for people but people are already having recreational opportunities in the area in question. What we'd really like is to keep the motorized vehicles out of there to preserve wildlife and to help people connect with their own strength and their own aesthetic appreciation. People who go on snow cat tours sit and drink beer smoke leave trash and generally don't use any effort to get into the backcountry, which means maybe their impact won't add anything to a pristine area and will in fact detract from it. There are plenty of places around Vail and Beavercreek that you can take snow cat tours. Why extend into this beautiful Drycreek basin? It makes no sense at all. People who have money for snow cat tours can go find one.”</p>
Mike, Jim	<p>“Please know that I value back country enthusiasts value and I mean incredibly value the experience that we have in the back country I myself am a teacher, and elementary school teacher inside the city and I need these experiences without motorized vehicles and without tourists leaving trash to energize for my life work. Thank you for considering my position. Please, consider these thoughts.”</p>
Cummings, Daniel	<p>“I live in Denver and am an avid skier. Even more so, I'm concerned about continuing encroachment on native species land.”</p>
Cummings, Daniel	<p>“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”</p>
Cummings, Daniel	<p>“Loveland doesn't need this and, more importantly, Colorado doesn't need this. Please consider the impact on wildlife, the calm of the national forest, and the beauty of untracked snow.”</p>

Simpson, James	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Simpson, James	<p>"That being said, I sincerely hope that this plan is approved. This is a reasonable use for this terrain which broadens access to this area by more types of skiers and boarders. This area is already impacted by the presence of the ski area (low impact by ski area standards due to minimal grooming, facilities and trail cutting) and I-70 and this additional use should be minimal. Moreover, this will provide a wonderful new experience for many Colorado skier and provide a taste and transitional step to the joys of backcountry skiing."</p>
Keyes, Linda	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Keyes, Linda	<p>"Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would substantially interfere with the quiet and remote winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationists. In addition, The Forest Service should consider how the expansion would impact lynx, wintering elk, and other wildlife."</p>
Keyes, Linda	<p>"The National Forest Service allows so many acres of motorized and machine accessible wilderness. We need to work to preserve access and areas for quiet, human powered recreation too."</p>

Roush, William	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would substantially interfere with the quiet and remote winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationalists."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest should complete a full Winter Travel Planning process before any new Over-Snow Vehicle permits are considered or approved."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"The proposed frequency of snowcat trips and total runs anticipated at 160-224 per day will diminish snow quality for backcountry users by "tracking out" slopes quickly and consuming the fresh powder within a single day rather than over the course of a week or more."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"Overall, the level of snow compaction and disturbance in the area would significantly change the quiet, scenic and remote qualities of this winter landscape and directly conflict with existing uses in the area."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"The Forest Service should consider how the expansion would impact lynx, wintering elk, and other wildlife."</p>
Roush, William	<p>"The assessment should examine how climate-change driven changes in the snow season will affect all forms of winter recreation in the area."</p>
Armstrong, Joshua	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Armstrong, Joshua	<p>"Concentrating machine powered access to certain areas will relive crowded access in other areas and will allow the backcountry experience be more enjoyable for more people."</p>

Lederer, Jason	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Lederer, Jason	<p>"Dry a Gulch is a special place to locals and visitors alike, because of its accessibility and terrain diversity. It is a very different experience ski touring Dry Gulch compared to Loveland Pass, as the lack of a car shuttle option limits crowds and results in a very different, special, and serene experience. Loveland Ski Area visitors can already enjoy a cat skiing experience within the ski area boundary. It is important to leave Dry Gulch as it is to the benefit of the other recreational users seeking an experience away from the crowds, noise, and impacts of a ski resort. Please reject any cat skiing expansion into Dry Gulch."</p>
Burns, Shane	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Burns, Shane	<p>"Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would essentially destroy the winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationists. Snowcat tours would directly conflict with existing uses in the area. "</p>
Burns, Shane	<p>"The Forest Service should also carefully consider how the expansion would impact lynx, wintering elk, and other wildlife."</p>

Gallagher, Clare	<p>“Being a long-time grateful user of the Loveland uphill policy, I really hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife. Not to mention, the local community's desire to have uphill access in-bounds outside of lift operating hours. That is the future of the sport and not having that uphill pass available would demote Loveland's esteem and usage in the uphill skimo/backcountry community!”</p>
Laramie, Clayton	<p>“As a backcountry skier that has been going to dry gulch for years, I sincerely hope that the forest services does NOT allow Loveland ski resort to start running cat operations in this serene valley. Currently you can skin in there easily enough, but the approach limits the crowds and makes for enjoyable backcountry terrain. The cat operation will totally ruin this. I know for one that I won't ever go there again if there's a cat lugging tens to hundreds of people over there each day. It would be a real shame.”</p>
Laramie, Clayton	<p>“That said, I understand they pay you and you have to make money somehow. I hope we can keep this undeveloped area undeveloped and let people who work for it find a little bit of wilderness.”</p>
Wagon, Stan	<p>“I live in Summit County and have skied in Dry Gulch for many years. Most skiers in there are from the Front Range though, since access is very convenient for them. The expansion that the ski area is considering would very negatively impact this area, and I have to declare myself against it. The ski-area side of the creek would be problematic as there might be avalanche blasting. And there would no doubt be conflicts arising as back country skiers would not be disallowed from using the snow-cat terrain (I hope!)”</p>
Wagon, Stan	<p>“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”</p>

Wagon, Stan	<p>"I have skied this area regularly for 25 years -- using our own power to get up these runs is not difficult. I would not look forward to seeing large parts of it skied by people being transported around the area by large, noisy, and smelly machinery. It would basically change the nature of the whole area. "</p>
Fishman, Brian	<p>"As a Denverite who utilizes the Dry Gulch Area for backcountry skiing, I oppose the plan to commercialize winter access to the area. The main reason I oppose designating this land for commercial use is its proximity to the Denver metro area. In order to afford recreational opportunities to all Coloradoans, the ratio of recreational:commercial land must be preserved near metro areas. By commercializing this land, a highly used recreational area will be taken from everyday Americans."</p>
Fishman, Brian	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Swank, Robin	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Cocchiarella, Carl	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>

Cocchiarella, Carl	"Can we please leave backcountry for animals and hikers. Enough is enough. More is more impact on an already busy backcountry. Thank you."
Bruskivage, Steve	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Bruskivage, Steve	"Opening up access via snow cat could be a wonderful experience for skiers with the abilities to handle it. Understanding the impacts will be important and should be studied, but without undue delay and foot dragging. Limitations on numbers of snow cat loops per day could help mitigate disturbances to the area."
Johnson, Jeffrey	"As a resident of Colorado I enjoy using the public lands free from commercial activity. Guides, snowcats, and other avy work will take away from the my experience on this public land. I understand multiuse, and believe that the commercial skiing aspect is fulfilled in the large ski resort next to this property."
Johnson, Jeffrey	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Malmborg, Eric	"There are few easily accessible backcountry areas in the Front Range for those of us who ski in on our own. Allowing Loveland to operate here would eliminate such an area."
Malmborg, Eric	"Despite being close to I-70, it provides a quiet and remote experience. It's not just about making turns."
Malmborg, Eric	"Established ski areas in the Front Range have thousands of acres of Forest Service land already permitted. To grant even more seems unfair to those of us who prefer to ski backcountry and not lift operated terrain. Enough is enough!"

Malmborg, Eric	"My preference, of course, is to deny the permit. However, if this is not possible, I'd suggest that Loveland only be allowed to operate on only one weekend day and only two predetermined days during a work week."
Gabel, Peter	"This would essentially take away one of the few backcountry ski areas relatively close to Denver. A snowcat operation will continuously track up snow in the terrain to the point that it will become unappealing to backcountry ski tourers."
Gabel, Peter	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Miller, Colin	"It is safer and less impactful for citizens to enjoy our National Forests on land that adjoins current recreational leases."
Miller, Colin	"Encouraging people to utilize their new gear and new experiences in a controlled atmosphere could go a long way towards elevating impacts elsewhere. "
Miller, Colin	"The environmental impact is also limited when placed adjacent to existing infrastructure (highway and resort) as witnessed with other Cat Ski Operations."
Miller, Colin	"I'm an avid conservationist but I also understand the benefit of sharing my recreational activities with others. It seems logical to me that Cat Skiing off Loveland Ski Area is a positive method of managing demand; increasing National Forest revenue; and maintaining natural integrity without permanent structures."
Clemmensen, Derek	"Loveland is increasingly more opposed to uphill access on land they are permitted to use. There is no reason to believe this trend will not continue with Dry Gulch once they are granted a permit, and have a financial incentive to keep other user groups off of their slopes
Clemmensen, Derek	- They substantially limited access to their terrain with new policy changes this last year closing access for much of the season and outlawing access during operating hours and within 30 minutes of opening and closing.
Clemmensen, Derek	- In addition they took measures to limit access beyond their new policy. The published B-Route to the continental divide was never opened during the 2017-2018 season."

Clemmensen, Derek	“Dry Gulch and Mt. Trelease is one of the few i-70 corridor accessed winter backcountry areas east of the divide that is free from motorized vehicles. Allowing Loveland to limit access to this public resource and allow paid motorized access sets a bad precedent for the area.”
Clemmensen, Derek	“Loveland does not have the resources to service the terrain they already operate on a lift served basis. Terrain was left closed this year as they struggled to complete avalanche mitigation with constrained resources. Allowing them to expand terrain within their avalanche mitigation responsibility without showing an increase in resources would do the public a disservice.”
Clemmensen, Derek	“I would ask that as a steward of our public lands you do not allow private interests to additionally limit access and profit at the expense of other user groups.”
Clemmensen, Derek	“Loveland has shown through their actions that they have no interest in allowing the public to access their permitted use area outside of paid access. There is no reason to believe that this behavior will improve. Allowing them to sell access to backcountry terrain only provides additional incentive to them to limit public use.”
Fischer, Carol	“USFS lands are not amusement parks. We need to stop fragmenting all ecosystems and disrupting hydro cycles. So called wildlife mitigation is leading to their extinction. Plant species are being added to the rare/endangered list yearly. Snowcat skiing has disrupted the backcountry in Aspen, Crested Butte, Steamboat, Monarch, Silverton, Vail, Keystone, etc. Apply the science and common sense. Cat skiers have no regard for leave no trace ethics, impacts, buffer zones, or natural and cultural history. The focus is a selfish and frenzied goal of vertical feet. Greed motivates the operator, I've witnessed this for 40 years. Stop the human disturbance and leave a legacy of integrity before moving on to your next promotion.”
Doskey, Gareth	“It will damage the current experience of backcountry users in the area which is the opposite effect of "enhance recreation and provide further opportunities to skiers and snowboarders in the area." Many users currently recreate in that area, I myself have skied Hagar, Citadel, Golden Bear, Bethel, Machebeuf, and other mountains in the area. I value the ease of access coupled with the quietness and feeling of remoteness. The addition of almost 200 people a day and heavy machinery to this area would surely change it.”
Doskey, Gareth	“Loveland has not been a big friend to the backcountry skier.

Doskey, Gareth	Loveland recently moved the backcountry gate in reference much lower on the mountain so as to be useless to its original purpose and location. I do not expect their sentiment to change."
Doskey, Gareth	"This is not opening up the area to the public, instead it will restrict it. Instead Loveland will charge additional access fees for the area and exert control over the area for the safety of their guests but at the detriment of other users. This increases the privatization of public spaces for those with money."
Doskey, Gareth	"Snow cat machines are terribly inefficient and for little to no public benefit will create significant air and noise pollution."
Doskey, Gareth	"If the goal is to "enhance recreation and provide further opportunities to skiers and snowboarders in the area." I would propose money be spent improving the trailhead and adding bathrooms to Dry Gulch in such a way as to encourage use of the area but not become a rest area for I70."
Paris, Mike	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Paris, Mike	"I also want you to know I am a Loveland ski area season pass holder for the pass 8 years. I am very surprised that Loveland would want to expand into this area, since they can not even manage the terrain at the ski area. The ski patrol is very underfunded and under staffed compared to other Colorado ski areas. I am sure the only reason they want this is for purely cash profits. "
Paris, Mike	"I have also been skiing jones pass since 1996, and ever since powder addiction snowcat operation got permitted, the amount of use Jone gets per season went up tremendously and the whole back country experience has changed. Snowcat skiers have dropped in on us at jones pass while we were already skiing. This is very poor avalanche terrain management and is putting people's safety at risk."
Paris, Mike	"Please do not allow Loveland to get a permit for snowcat skiing, since they cannot manage and open the terrain they currently have at their ski area."

Rollenhagen, Frederick	<p>“At this time, the only comment that Clear Creek County offices has is that should any buildings or structures be proposed, appropriate building permits must be obtained from the County Community Development Division located at 1111 Rose St. in Georgetown. Otherwise, County offices have no other comments.”</p>
Walts, Sue	<p>“I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Loveland Ski Area's proposal to offer snowcat tours in the Dry Gulch area. This would be a tremendous addition to the winter recreation opportunities in the Denver metro area. Many avid skiers, including myself, would greatly value the opportunity to enjoy a backcountry-type experience without the need to invest in extensive avalanche training and equipment. The snowcat tours would also provide a safer way to ski and snowboard in this beautiful area. If Loveland's request is granted, I will be one of the first in line to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to enjoy untracked powder in an uncrowded and natural environment.”</p>
Zyzda, Michael	<p>“I am an avid outdoorsman and love the area of Loveland pass, Herman Lake, and Dry Gulch. This is a gem area with lower avalanche danger in the winter, great for nordic skiing and getting away.”</p>
Zyzda, Michael	<p>“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”</p>
Zyzda, Michael	<p>“Please consider that expansion of this area to motorized travel regularly will impact my enjoyment of the area and disrupt wildlife in the area. I strongly urge you to NOT allow this expansion to happen.”</p>

Welsh, Brian	<p>“Hello, I am writing this to OPPOSE the Special Use Permit requested to allow a Snowcat operation in the Dry Gulch basin area. I and many others have been using this pristine area for backcountry winter and summer use for many years. To open this area to snowcat use will introduce various types of pollution not currently present in the basin. These new pollutants will affect wildlife that live in the area among other obvious negative impacts on the local environment. With a little muscle-power, it takes about one hour of skinning/hiking to reach the back bowls of this gulch from I-70. To open this area to the masses by snowcat will increase the number of accidents/deaths, just by the law of averages. “</p>
Welsh, Brian	<p>“Also, by offering guided tours in the area, I believe the backcountry knowledge-level of participants will decrease because they will be relying on the guide for safety. If the plan is to increase avalanche mitigation, then you ruin the overall backcountry experience. “</p>
Welsh, Brian	<p>“Please, don’t destroy the natural beauty of this area by allowing machines, and thence, large numbers of people in. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. “</p>
Leslie, Steven	<p>“I am an avid backcountry skier and snowboarder and visit the Dry Gulch area a couple times every winter & spring. The beauty of Dry gulch is its relatively easy access, abundant snow, varied terrain, all in a beautiful setting. Because motorized vehicles are currently not permitted, Dry Gulch offers a very quite and remote feel, despite its close proximity to I70. Adding snow cat operations would negatively impact the human powered recreational experience by adding noise, quickly tracking out slopes, negatively impact the scenery by the presence of packed and marked snow cat routes and avalanche control activities.”</p>
Leslie, Steven	<p>“I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction and change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife.”</p>

Moraczewski, Jan	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Moraczewski, Jan	<p>"Introducing snowcat tours into Dry Gulch would substantially interfere with the quiet and remote winter backcountry experience sought by human-powered recreationists. We have so many noise filled recreational areas already!"</p>
Moraczewski, Jan	<p>"Overall, the level of snow compaction and disturbance in the area would significantly change the quiet, scenic and remote qualities of this winter landscape and directly conflict with existing uses in the area."</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>"Although I have been a loyal season pass holder at Loveland Basin for over 23 years, I have to object</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>to the proposed Dry Gulch outfitter-guide permit requested by the ski area. A sizable portion of Dry</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>Gulch is already included within the ski area boundary, and there is no need to add additional acreage. Instead, the remainder of the gulch should be kept for non-motorized recreation."</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>"Dry Gulch is one of the few places that is easily accessible from the Front Range but where people can experience the backcountry as opposed to yo-yo skiing off of Loveland Pass. Unlike some chutes that</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>are quite extreme, the head of Dry Gulch, and specifically the 210 acres affected by the permit</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>application, is intermediate skiing that can be enjoyed all winter by properly equipped AT skiers. This experience will be lost if it is tracked by snow cats and over 200 skiers per day."</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>"The Scoping Letter states that the purpose of the permit is to "satisfy the growing demand for expert backcountry terrain access." This claim rings hollow considering that Loveland Basin has not yet</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>accessed all of the expert terrain on Mt. Trelease and Dry Gulch that is already within its use permit boundaries. Also, the 210 acres is simply not expert terrain - instead, the ski area is seeking to add</p>
Nevins, Barbara	<p>intermediate terrain to increase the appeal and profit of its snow cat operations at the expense of the many people who already use and enjoy the area without motorized assistance."</p>

Castringo, Tom	"I am a backcountry skier. My concern is with limiting access to public lands during avalanche control work.
Castringo, Tom	Please work with the applicant to determine a control plan that allows public lands to remain accessible at all times."
Castringo, Tom	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Sellers, John	"Approval of this project would allow us to introduce recreation to 290 acres of terrain within our Special Use Permit that is currently underutilized. The additional 210 acres of proposed terrain outside of the SUP would allow access to additional terrain necessary to offer a snowcat experience more in line with those of our competitors and significantly enhance the guest experience."
Sellers, John	"This project would enable more users to explore and enjoy these public lands with minimal impact on the ecosystem and wildlife in Dry Gulch."
Sellers, John	"Snowcat tours in Dry Gulch would help meet the growing demand for snowcat and backcountry experiences in Colorado, specifically the Front Range."
Sellers, John	"With increased consolidation and continuous expansion by our neighboring mountains, this project would enable us to keep pace with our competition in an already overly competitive market."
Ruff, Bruce	"I am in full support of this snowcat tour. Loveland ski area with its close proximity to Denver would provide a great deal more controlled backcountry access and recreational opportunities which are greatly needed. Expanding the use by snowcat would have a minimal effect on the environment."
Luby, Kevin	"The current proposed terrain is rarely skied by backcountry skiers, especially in mid-winter when there is high avalanche terrain. This expansion doesn't infringe at all on the much more popular backcountry zones of Mt. Terelese, and Lower Dry Gulch. There's little actual conflict between backcountry tourers and this proposed operation. Ultimately this cat-skiing operation open up access, regular use and stewardship where previously there was little to none."

Luby, Kevin	<p>“As the last independently-owned ski area on the Front Range. Loveland needs to be allowed to expand and offer new exciting ski opportunities to keep pace in an incredibly competitive Front Range Market supported by corporations dozens of times larger than Loveland. This is especially important as Loveland is by far the most affordable and accessible place to learn to ski near Denver. The city needs this resource now and in the long term. “</p>
Luby, Kevin	<p>“A Loveland-based cat skiing operation would safely open up countless new people to the excitement and possibilities of backcountry skiing. Growing more advocates for backcountry skiing, national forests, shared use, and public land protections.”</p>
Luby, Kevin	<p>“Resort-based cat skiing is more visible and accessible than traditional cat-ski operations. This would be a great resource to promote regional tourism to Clear Creek County.”</p>
Luby, Kevin	<p>“This is a smart project that would open up a unique recreation opportunity to Front Range skier and the surrounding region. Loveland is an incredibly unique community-driven ski area and awesome resource for both new and passionate skiers alike. I sincerely hope you allow this project to continue and grant approval. “</p>
Luby, Kevin	<p>“Ski areas have been allowed in the past to expand with seemingly no concern for backcountry users (e.g., Vail, A-Basin, etc.). Snowcat tours should not be allowed in Dry Gulch. This is basically an expansion of Loveland Ski Area, and it will take away one more area for non-motorized winter recreation in the Front Range area. “</p>
Luby, Kevin	<p>“There is already a snowcat operation just to the north in the Jones Pass area. This operation, along with the snowmobile traffic in that area, has taken away a large area for quiet, winter recreation. Have you been up to Jones Pass in the winter? It is a circus -- the snowcat operation has basically taken over the trailhead area and many areas up high with their various routes, and they ensure along with the snowmobilers that a pleasant and quiet experience is hard to find. In the late spring, once the snowcat and snowmobiles are gone, you can find all kinds of debris they have left behind.”</p>

Luby, Kevin	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing non-motorized, backcountry winter use in the area. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, trash left by the operation and participants, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Moore, Andy	<p>"Ski areas have been allowed in the past to expand with seemingly no concern for backcountry users (e.g., Vail, A-Basin, etc.). Snowcat tours should not be allowed in Dry Gulch. This is basically an expansion of Loveland Ski Area, and it will take away one more area for non-motorized winter recreation in the Front Range area. "</p>
Moore, Andy	<p>"There is already a snowcat operation just to the north in the Jones Pass area. This operation, along with the snowmobile traffic in that area, has taken away a large area for quiet, winter recreation. Have you been up to Jones Pass in the winter? It is a circus -- the snowcat operation has basically taken over the trailhead area and many areas up high with their various routes, and they ensure along with the snowmobilers that a pleasant and quiet experience is hard to find. In the late spring, once the snowcat and snowmobiles are gone, you can find all kinds of debris they have left behind."</p>
Moore, Andy	<p>"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing non-motorized, backcountry winter use in the area. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, trash left by the operation and participants, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."</p>
Smith, Rocky	<p>"In general, the proposed action would generate conflicts with wildlife and existing backcountry winter use. We believe it is important to conserve the project area and adjacent area for these uses rather than turn it area into a developed area for the benefit of Loveland Ski Area. The management plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) should be amended to designate a special area for wildlife movement in at least the portion of the proposed project area outside of Loveland Ski Area's existing special use permit boundary."</p>
Smith, Rocky	<p>see comment letter...</p>

Gagliardi, Mike	"I wanted to chime in on the Loveland Dry Gulch expansion. I saw that the review for the special use permit is coming up. I, for one, am very excited to ride in this area with guide provided. The terrain is very interesting, and yet of course it does pose a hazard to those going out of bounds. It seems like there is much more interest in the backcountry among the skiing and riding public, and this is a safe way for those interested to get the "backcountry experience" in a safe way under watchful eyes. "
Gagliardi, Mike	"The avalanche control and mitigation will that Loveland will have to do will make this a less hazardous adventure for those wishing to participate. Having been in that Gulch myself, the access to both the North and South side is crucial for a quality experience. Slope orientation in relation to both wind, sun, etc. certainly affects the quality of the skiing/riding experience, and having access to both North and South sides of the drainage makes it so if avalanche danger is higher on one side or the other, that side can be avoided for the day/session/etc."
Dratch, Elke	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."
Hume, Scot	"I am a Colorado native that has sadly watched the opportunities for easily accessed backcountry skiing shrink dramatically over my life here. Dry Gulch is one such place. Right on I-70 with tons of visitors skiing, boarding and snowshoeing in every day. I am very concerned about conceding this public space to a private company. The main reason for living in Colorado is access to public lands."
Hume, Scot	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."

Hume, Scot	"Instead of a cat operation that effectively takes the resource from the public due to their ability to climb, why not use the Canadian model. Use human powered access and guides. There is plenty of lift and snow cat opportunities already available in the overall area."
Mach, Julie	see comment letter...
Vitelli, Marc	"I've been an avid snowboarder here in Colorado for 18 seasons, 16 of those specifically at Loveland Ski Area. I've always wanted to explore beyond the boundaries of the resort as the terrain looks so awesome. I had the opportunity last spring, as part of one of the 'test' groups, to explore Dry Gulch for the day and it was everything I could have hoped for. The terrain and views that Dry Gulch provides is amazing considering it's so close to the front range and there currently isn't anything like this so close to Denver. I believe that many front range snow enthusiasts would be beyond stoked to experience and explore Dry Gulch. This also keeps Loveland at par with other local front range resorts who offer backcountry/snowcat tours."
Vitelli, Marc	"I'd love to see this area of expansion opened up to the public via Loveland for snowcat tours as it would give Loveland a huge boost since it's still privately owed and would legitimately put Loveland on the front range resort map."
Hollinshead, Ellen	see comment letter...
Day, Casey	"This April I was able to spend some time in Dry Gulch via Loveland Ski Areas snow cat, and it was a great experience! I think this additional terrain that is currently underutilized will be a great addition to Loveland, and will provide a zone for Loveland to help educate backcountry travelers in a controlled environment. I am looking forward to getting back in Dry Gulch after Loveland moves forward with the cat tours."
Damp, Jeff	"I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider the proposed expansion with regard to potential conflicts with existing backcountry winter use in the area including skiing, splitboarding and snowshoeing. Impacts include noise from motorized snowcats, reduced snow quality from increased use and compaction, change in the remote/undeveloped character of the area, and safety hazards from avalanche mitigation. All of these impacts should be analyzed carefully in addition to impacts on natural resources and wildlife."

Damp, Jeff	<p>"I am an avid hiker and skier who has visited the Dry Gulch area and it's environs for at least 35 years. I have also been a season ticket holder at Loveland Ski area for several years. I thoroughly enjoy the ski area. Its location close to Denver is a real draw. The area is accessible even on snowy days, being on the east side of the CD. That said, lets keep it that way. The Zip Basin area of Loveland Ski Area ALREADY has a certain alpine flavor, which I find vey attractive. Zip has a lot of terrain to explore, and is served by a very nice, quiet, low-impact, fast lift. I see little to be gained by cat skiing beyond there, other than the thrill and bragging rights a non-Coloradan can claim when he goes home, saying he has "cat skied" the Rockies. Zip Basin is very rarely crowded, and provides a fine alpine flavor. PLEASE explain to me how cat skiing just east of Zip Basin can provide a significant enough improvement to make it worth degrading the area for non-motorized users!"</p>
Damp, Jeff	<p>"Commercial skiing ventures have extended too far already. There are few places left in the Front Range where backcountry skiers can enjoy peace and a natural setting. Jones Pass has been taken. I've gone up there in the Spring and found damaged trees, beer cans and trash, all from cat skiers. Cat skiing at Keystone has extended well into the alpine environment. Can't the Forest Service just leave the wilderness alone? Must you persist in ruining more and more of the little wilderness remaining in the Denver area? There is ample cat skiing already at Jones Pass, Keystone, and Copper Mountain, to name a few. When is enough enough?"</p>
Damp, Jeff	<p>"Are you going to enforce environmental regulations on the cat operations? Where is that money coming from? Already, you cannot enforce no-fly-zones for drones, loose dogs degrading the environment with their excrement, nor have you been able to maintain existing trails, since many are badly eroded due to over-use and degradation. Why should we believe that you can enforce any regulations on cat skiing at Loveland? I have hiked this area in the summer and skied it in spring, and have seen coyote, ptarmigan, marmots. These, along with other wildlife, like deer, bear, mountain lion, will all be impacted by your plan. And the impact will last for years to come."</p>
Damp, Jeff	<p>"Your idea to open cat skiing at Dry Creek poorly reasoned, and will only benefit a very few, wealthy people. If these people really want to experience backcountry skiing, I suggest they skin up and do it properly. It would be more appropriate for you to offer guided tours up Dry Creek, using non-motorized means."</p>

Wood, John	"Over the years, I have watched backcountry skiing opportunities evaporate at Vail (due to the expansion into Blue Sky Basin), Breckenridge (Peak 10), Copper Mountain (the Union Bowl expansion eliminated access to Jacques Peak and Copper Creek), Keystone (Jones Gulch), and A-Basin (Montezuma Bowl, the Beaver Brook Run and the Beaver Chutes). At some point, the ever-expanding lift-served and motorized commercial uses need to yield to the large group of skiers who prefer to work for their turns and to have a chance to find untracked snow. Dry Gulch is an appropriate area to draw that line."
Wood, John	"Dry Gulch is readily accessible from the Denver metropolitan area and already receives significant use from backcountry skiers. Unlike the Mine Dumps (which is monopolized by automobile oriented skiers), Dry Gulch has been utilized by AT skiers and telemarkers and offers a pure, remote experience. This remains true even if Loveland Basin operates a snow-cat operation in the portion of Dry Gulch that is within its SUP. Because of the errain at the head of Dry Gulch, the 210 acres in question offer an experinece that is separated from the SUP portion of the gulch and will still appeal to non-motorized users."
Wood, John	"On the other hand, Loveland Basin already has plenty of backcountry terrain within its SUP on Mt. Trelease and into Dry Gulch that it has not utilized. It is consequently hypocritical for the area to claim that there is a demonstrated need to add an additional 210 acres. In essence, the current permit application represents an attempt to end-run the federally mandated process for enlarging the SUP boundaries and should be rejected."
Wood, John	"On my trips into this area (specifically on the fringe of the 210 subject acres), I have also observed the presence of snow-shoe hare, a favorite food source for lynx. I consequently hope that, at the very leaset, the application undergoes a full NEPA environmental review to determine potential impacts upon wildlife habitat and migration corridors."
Carrol, TJ	Loveland Ski Area presently provides snowcat operations along the Continental Divide within its ski area boundaries directly south of, and adjacent to, the area of the Proposal.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal will not use a different method of transporting skiers than what is currently being used in Loveland Ski Area's snowcat operations . The Proposal will continue to utilize a combination of fixed chairlifts and mechanized snowcats to access terrain.

Carrol, TJ	The experience of riding in the snowcats under the Proposal will be similar to existing operations. It will involve climbing into a confined and enclosed space packed in with a number of other people and taking a noisy bumpy ride in a tracked vehicle designed to move on snow.
Carrol, TJ	After riding the Snowcat, the skiing experience under the Proposal will require that skiers descend in a group under the direction and control of a guide. Under current snowcat operations skiers are allowed the freedom to descend at will whenever and wherever they want to go within the designated boundaries, and with the option of skiing or riding individually or with companions.
Carrol, TJ	The terrain that would be accessed by the Proposal would be not be an enhancement, and would in fact be very similar to the terrain currently being accessed by the existing snow cat operations in terms of snow coverage, snow depth, elevation, aspect, slope angles, terrain features, and vegetation (both are mostly at or above tree line).
Carrol, TJ	The terrain will require that new avalanche mitigation be introduced into the Proposal area, including the use of high powered explosives designed to cause large shock waves and loud sound. The skier experience will therefore be similar to that within the currently controlled ski area where snow “debris” fields that result from avalanches initiated by explosives will be encountered along with blackened “bomb” craters where the explosives discharged.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal area will increase the time and distance required to access terrain, compared to less time and distance for skiers and riders to currently access similar terrain under present snowcat operations.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal will likewise increase the time and distance required for emergency rescue operations within the Proposal area. It will take longer to evacuate skiers injured in the Dry Gulch drainage area who will need to be removed from that area back to within the ski area boundaries in order for them to be further transported within the ski area to shelter, medical assistance and ambulance transport at and from the base area at the ski patrol building near the bottom of Lift 1 at the Basin.

Carrol, TJ	For all of the above reasons, the Proposal will not material enhance recreational opportunities beyond that which can be obtained by skiers and snowboarders under current operations at Loveland Ski Area. The Proposal will actually result in certain less enhanced recreational opportunities as described above and increased safety concerns.
Carrol, TJ	The request for permission regarding the Proposal should therefore be denied for failure to meet the requirement of enhancing recreational opportunities.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal will introduce for the first time, on an ongoing basis and from time-to-time, the use of explosives into a new and previously undisturbed drainage area ecosystem known as Dry Gulch, i.e. the Proposal area.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal will introduce for the first time, on a regular ongoing basis during each day of operation, the use of mechanized combustion engine snowcats making multiple trips up and down, and into and out of, a new and previously undisturbed drainage area ecosystem area known as Dry Gulch, i.e. the Proposal area.
Carrol, TJ	The Proposal will increase the number of skiers and snowboarders recreating in the Proposal area in the winter time. Presently, the Proposal area can only be accessed in the winter by persons self transporting on their own two legs by way of skies, splitboards or snow shoes ("Backcountry Skiers").
Carrol, TJ	The impact of the Proposal on fish and wildlife, including greenback cutthroat trout, Canada lynx, bobcats, marmots, birds, etc. must be carefully analyzed.
Carrol, TJ	The adverse impact on Backcountry Skiers, who presently enjoy an existing and competing recreational use of the resources in and around the Proposal area, must be considered. The Proposal area has long been popular terrain for low impact Backcountry Skiers. The Proposal will denigrate recreation and opportunities for Backcountry skiers who have a long established presence and use of the Proposal area and affected surrounding area. Dry Gulch serves as the drainage for pristine backcountry skiing on Mount Trelease, Haegar Mountain, the Citadel, the Continental Divide, Mount Bethel, and other areas, which would all be adversely affected by the introduction and use of explosives and mechanized snowcats, and the increased human activity as a result of the Proposal.
Carrol, TJ	The above resource issues and impacts provide a separate and additional basis for denying the requested permission concerning the Proposal.

